Business Motices.

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New-Dork Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1855.

Last night a fire occurred in Ann-st. by which two buildings, Nos. 49 and 51, were burned. Trow's City Directory, in course of publication, was partially destroyed. The total loss was about \$50,000.

We have returns and rumors from a few more counties in Virginia, making, with the table we printed vesterday, 132 counties and cities out of the 143 in the State. The later figures reduce Flourney's majority in Kanawha from 1,600 to 966; and all the counties so far received make Wise's majority 8,284.

The Maine Know-Nothing State Convention adjourned yesterday without making any nomination for Governor. It is proposed to give the mass of the party a chance by some sort of informal ballot to express their preference, and not to let the nomination be made, New-York fashion, by half a dozen office-hunters who hanpen to have got themselves into the Grand Council's chairs. The Maine Convention also passed strong Anti-Slavery resolutions, with but three doughface voices in opposition, and will of course send Anti-Slavery delegates to the National Convention. In State politics they expressed a disposition to fuse generally with the Republican party. The K. N.'s of Maine have evidently heard from Virginia.

The news by the Pacific is interesting. Its chief points are the large majority of Palmerston in the House of Lords, the opening of the Paris Exhibition, the execution of Pianori, the complete withdrawal of Austria from the Western Alliance and the resignation of Gen. Canrobert as chief commander of the French Army in the Crimea. On Palmerston's victory we comment below: the Paris Exhibition was still more incomplete at its opening than either its London or New-York predecessors: Pianori died very bravely, declaring that he had no accomplices; Austria now declares for neutrality along with the rest of Germany, though at the same time she keeps up appearances by making new proposals of peace; and Canrobert's resignation has ill-health for its pretext, the real reason doubtless being that the Emperor decided to have Gen. Pelissier in his place. At London money is abundant, and consols have risen one per cent.

MASKS OFF:

The Know-Nothings in doleful plight are engaged in picking up the pieces of their broken crockery so utterly demolished by the Virginia election. Like the man in the deluge, who did not believe it was going to be much of a shower after all, they are just now trying to console themselves with the reflection that if they cannot carry the Democratic States in the South they can at least carry the old Whig States there, and thus make a respectable show of strength in that quarter. But we cannot allow that there is any foundation for such a hope as this. The Southern Whigs have everywhere been running a disgraceful race for popularity on the Slavery question for several years past. And we have no faith that they will stop in their career. Inasmuch as they have set up the institution of Slavery as the god of their idolatry there is no reason why they should not rally round the present Administration and the party the most fully committed to its support. They have something to gain, in the low point of view, by ratting to the sham Democracy, but nothing that we can see by going over to a new, proscriptive, unannealed party, yet in the gristle, and which is sure to be rotten before it is ripe. Beside this consideration there are many honorable men among the Southern Whigs who are not to be caught or tempted by the chaff of the new organization and who will support its opponents, not that they like them more but be cause they like the Know-Nothings and their

This turning over one great political organization into the lap of another, with all the appur tenances thereunto belonging, without material loss in the transfer, is a job not so easily accomplished as may by some be imagined. There are seme people left yet who don't choose to be used as mere pawns on the political chess-board. The welding of incongruous political elements in the old Whig States into a compact and successful party on the side of unintelligence and proscription will be found to be a matter of extreme difficulty, and so far as we can perceive the Know-Nothing generals are just as likely to find they have reckoned without their host in one Slave State as another. It may even turn out that the attempt to convert the old Southern Whig party into a Know-Nothing party will convenient excuse for a good deal of deserting to the ranks of the sham Democracy in all those States where the Whig majorities

have latterly been so significantly dwindling.

These majorities have been gradually whittled down till the apprehension has generally prevailed among old Whigs that they can be saved but a short time, and that it is just about as well to fall in and go with the current. If Know-Nothingism could have maintainel its misty front of large apparent proportions a little longer there would be some ground for the hope of its roping in the majority of the Whigs. But as it is we see none. The prestige of the party has gone. We don't believe Southern politicians will trust themselves to a broken-winded mag just from overwhelming defeat. We are prepared therefore to see a general collapse of the Know-Nothing windbag in the South, since the Order have shown no vitality in Virginia, where they made great efforts and greater brags.

But of what account any way would be the carrying by the Know-Nothings of here and there an old Whig State in the South by affiliation with a decaying branch of an effete party? What would it amount to? Do the Know-Nothings suppose that such an achievement can enable them to maintain a foothold in the North, as against the Anti-Nebraska men, and the old line Loco-Focos This would be a verdant supposition indeed And we beg to enlighten the understandings of those National Know-Nothings who are conspiring to sell out the North again, in a truck and dicker trade with the Slave Oligarchy, by telling them that their designs are fully understood and that their game, in the present state of things, has n't a chance of winning. If the North must be seld once more, the Anti-Nebraska men will prefer to see it done by those who have made the business a trade, and whose skirts are already heavy with the filth of treason. They will help neither directly nor indirectly to foster the growth of a rival in the career of political infamy which has been run by the sham Democracy.

On the platform of selling out to the South therefore, the Know-Nothings, in order to be successful will be compelled to out-vete both wings of their opponents in the North. We leave it to their leaders to judge of the brilliancy of their chances of accomplishing this feat. They will find their efforts in that line followed by a more sudden dissipation of their bubble in the North than has signalized their political bankruptcy in the South. The Anti-Nebraska men are destined ultimately to a complete and overwhelming success in the North. Whether it is to be postponed for a period by untoward political events cannot be foretold. It may or it may not be. But whether it be so or not, its ultimate triumph is sure. If obstructions to their success do arise and fling themselves across the path of Freedom they will be crushed in the most effectual way, whatever that way is. If the Anti-Nebraska men cannot win, they will yield to the sway of confessed villians rather than to that of the covert regues who try to elimb to power under false pretenses. It is far better for the cause of Freedom that open traitors, men whose acts and designs are palpably infamous, should be in power rather than plausible, double-dealing hypocrites.

There is just one thing and only one thing to

be done in the present important crisis in our

polities. We must have a direct and explicit decision on the extension of Slavery and the admission of Kansas as a slaveholding State. Until these questions, so far as they are connected with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, are definitively settled, no minor questions are in order. The great problem of our time is whether the North will consent to the surrender of free territory to Slavery. This question overrides all others. It demands and must receive a solution. It should be settled promptly. Let us come then to its decision. The elections can be carried right and left in every State and in almost every Congressional District for Freedom. A President can be elected. The people are ready, the times are ripe. Why stand we then paltering? Give us the issue and let us come to the vote. We are overwhelmingly strong in the North. What folly is under such circumstances, for Know-Nothing leaders to be cudgeling their brains to find out new schemes. The true plan of the campaign is as plain as a landscape under a June sky. It spreads broad and luminous. Let the North simply unite on the great question of the time and vote its convictions on that, regardless of all minor or collateral differences among its people. Let the Anti-Nebraska flag float from every town, village and hamlet. Whatsoever people may think about the Pope or the foreigners, whatever crotchet or folly may possess their brains, let these things at least be subordinated to the one great duty of protecting the free Territory of the Union from the audacious invasions of the Slave Oligarchy, and to the maintenance of the spirit of liberty in the administration of the country. For if our free territories are to be lost, everything else worth saving falls with them.

EXTENDING THE AREA OF FREEDOM.

Since the settlement of our country great additions have been made to our territorial domain, and heavy expenses have been incurred in consequence. Every citizen is of course aware that the Slave States have had the principal benefit of that increase and received a large part of the money expended, but we propose to bring together some facts bearing directly upon this point. Let us see what the action of the General Government has been on the subject of Slavery. Let us see how the National Treasury has been made to bleed to nourish and sustain that institution. Let us look at the appropriatiens that have been made to prosecute various wars and to purchase territories resulting in the extension of the great abomination.

Until 1760 the entire talley of the Mississippi elonged to France and was styled the Province of Louisiana. In that year France commenced negotiating with Spain a secret treaty, and which resulted in transfering to Spain so much of the aforesaid Province as lay west of the Mississippi River, embracing, of course, New-Or-. This treaty, though ratified in 1762, was not published until 1764, after the general "Treaty of Paris," made in 1763 between Great Britain, France and Spain, when France ceded Canada to Great Britain with all the Louisiana Province east of the Mississippi River, and which was thenceforward called East Louisiana. Thus by those two treaties France disposed of all her territory in North America By the treaty last mentioned Spain ceded the Ploridas to Great Britain.

By the treaty of 1783, at the close of the Re-

volution, the United States acquired from Great Britain all of East Louisiana. In the same year the Floridas were retroceded to Spain, which also retained its other possessions in North America. Thus the United States was then bounded on the North by Canada and the great lakes, on the West by the Mississippi, and on South by the 31st parallel of N. latitude, which divided it from the Floridas.

In 1795 the United States obtained from Spain the free navigation of the Mississippi, which had become an urgent public want; but Spain afterward threw many obstacles in the way of trade, and it is probable that hostilities with that nation were only prevented by its ceding Louisiana to France, March 21, 1801, in accordance with the treaty of San Ildefonso, of October 1, 1800. About this period the general attention of the

nation was drawn by many circumstances to a consideration of the probable destiny of the great Mississippi Valley, and the carnest sentiment of our people began to show itself through the public press, and Congress was called on to make arrangements for purchasing the entire province. On the recommendation of President Jefferson in 1803 Congress provided for the exploration of the country, which was accordingly accomplished by Capts. Lewis and Clarke. Negotiations were commenced with France, and the condition of her affairs so favored the proposed purchase that it was speedily consummated. The treaty was signed April 18, 1803, and perfected on the 30th of that month. Louisiana new became the property of the United States, \$15,000,000 being paid for the same. In December following the territory was duly surrendered. The \$15,000,000 was paid in stock and money. The amount paid for interest on that stock up to the time it became due was \$8,529,353 43, making the total payment to France for Louisiana \$23,529,353 43. In 1811 that portion of West Florida south of 31°, and new included in Alabama and Mississippi, was occupied by the United States, the Spanish autherity having been subverted by revolution. After Louisiana had been acquired there was a grave controversy with France concerning the western limits of that province, which lasted until 1819-'20, when by the Florida Treaty of that period the Floridas were ceded to the United States and Texas was confirmed to Spain. Spain in 1821 ceded the whole of Florida as indemnity for spoliations committed on the property of American citizens, though it also received \$5,000,000, which with \$1,489,-768 66 paid in the shape of interest on stock issued, made together the sum of \$6,480,763 66.

Thus we paid France and Spain for new territory \$30,019,122 09. But this is not all. Georgia, by its charter of 1732, extended westward to the Missippi River, and hence, though at that period the territory beyond its present limits (now Alabama and Mississippi) was de facto a French possession, yet on its coming into the possession of Great Britain in 1763 and of the United States in 1783, it was of course claimed by Georgia as falling within the limits of its charter. In 1798 this country was formed into the Territory of Mississippi, and Georgia's elaim to it was ceded to the United States in 1802 for the sums of \$1,250,000, paid in money and arms, and \$4,282,151 12 paid for Yazoo claims under that State-total, \$5,532,151 12. Thus far the aggregate cost is \$35,551,273 21. We cannot now state the cost of extinguishing the Indian title to these regions.

Now, a word in regard to the Florida war which was commenced in 1834, for the estensible object of compelling the Seminoles-a warlike tribe inhabiting East Florida-to remove west of the Mississippi, according to the treaty which they had been induced to make some time previous. Gen. Jackson insisted on their removal; they refused to go; hence this most bloody war. There was nothing like absolute necessity for their removal. If the tribe had not been abused by the whites they would have been peaceable and would have willingly removed, as did the Delawares and other tribes on the Atlantic coast, when they required a wider field for hunting. But unfortunately the great speculating mania of 1833-6 had commenced. Some individuals wanted possession of Florida as a basis for their swindling operations. Perhaps a few of them may have believed the fabulous accounts touching its fertility and elimate. Slaveholders wanted new plantations, and slave-breeders wanted new markets. To gratify these landable desires the Seminoles were ordered to remove. The principal chief-Osceola, or Powell, whose father was an Englishman, his mother a Seminole-declared that he would not leave his native home and the sight of his father's temb. Other chief warriors were half-breeds, which accounts for their opposition to removal. The first proof of their fixed determination was their killing Charley Amathla, a chief favorable to removal. The entire war was proportionally the most sanguinary that our Government has ever been engaged in. Great numbers of officers and brave soldiers were killed in battle or perished in the fatal swamps. The Indians, although few in numbers, were enabled, from the favorable nature of the country to baffle the pursuit of the troops, and kept up a succession of devastations and massacres: often surprising the troops and committing great slaughter among them. At length Osceola, with seventy warriors, came one day into the American camp, under the protection of a flag; but Gen. Jessup, suspecting him of treachery, imprisoned him, and he died in a few months. It was generally supposed that this would end the war. but the Seminoles refused to make any treaty, and the war continued until 1842. The following table of expenses of this war is derived from

fficial reports: \$26,744,001 00 . \$500,000 00 Total cost of Florida war...... Amounts paid Spain for territory....

Total amount for Florida

To this a large sum should be added on account of pensions, bounty lands, extra pay, the removal of Indians, annuities and the like, the mount of which we cannot ascertain. Texas was a province of Mexico until March,

#\$1,754,149 of

1836, when it declared its independence, but it had previously been in open rebellion. At the battle of San Jacinto on April 21 of that year, the Mexicans were defeated, and Santa Anna was captured. He conceded the independence of Texas, but his acknowledgment was never confirmed by Mexico. In fullness of time this

new Republic sought admission into our glorious Union. The honor of signing the joint resolution of Congress for this purpose on March 1, 1845, was the crowning glory and almost the last official act of the illustrious John Tyler. Texas ratified the resolution on the 4th of July following, being a suitable act in commemoration of our National Anniversary, and by set of Congress of Dec. 29 of the same year, the laws of the United States were extended over that interesting portion of America. But this barmonious and agreeable transaction between two sister Republics was not regarded by a third and adjoining Republic with much satisfaction.

On the 28th of March, 1846, Gen. Taylor and the "Army of Occupation" took their position opposite Matameras. On the 24th April the first hostilities took place, when a detachment of our troops were killed. This resulted in the first great battle of May 8-9; and on the 13th following Congress passed the first act for the prosecution of the war, appropriating \$10,000,000, and previding for 50,000 volunteers. We have not space, nor is it necessary to give either an outline of the war, or the details of its expenses. The treaty of peace and cession was signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo Feb. 2, 1848.

It is then for this brief period of two years' war that the National Treasury has been burdened with an amount of expenses certainly not less than \$250,000,000, and more probably than \$260,000,000.

Mr. Corwin, as Secretary of the Treasury, in his report of December, 1850, presented an account of the actual cost of the war to that time, the amounts furthur required to June 30, 1852, and estimates of subsequent expenses directly chargeable to the war-the total footing at \$217,175,575 89. Mr. Corwin says: "This "amount does not include many claims presented "and to be presented, arising indirectly from "the war, their great variety forbidding even "an approximation either as to number or

The public documents printed since his report do not satisfactorily present the separate amounts specially chargeable to this war. we can make out from them that there has been paid at least \$472,758 90, directly caused by the wir. Doubtless there is a much larger amount smothered up in the general table of expenditures. Of the amounts chargeable in pensions, (the total list of which has for several years averaged \$1,360,000,) in bounty lands, &c., we cannot immediately make out a full schedule. By the act of Sept. 9, 1850, Texas received for

ts cession of that part of its territory now in cluded in New-Mexico, \$10,000,000, and for its relinquishment of claims on the United States, the sum of \$10,000,000 in stock bearing five per cent interest, payable half-yearly, and redeemsble in 14 years. Half of this amount, or \$5,000,000, was reserved for its creditors. This provision was changed at the last session, and an additional amount of \$2,500,000 was appropriated toward paying the creditors of Texas, which sum is consequently chargeable to the account of our National expenses for that State. The purchase of the Mesilla Valley, ostensibly for the purpose of having one of the moonshine routes for the Pacific Railroad within our national domain, was effected for the moderate sum of \$10,000,000, in accordance with the treaty of Dec. 15, 1853. The expenses for concluding this treaty are stated in the Treasury Report as at least \$86,255 88.

As Spain has not yet accepted the small sum of \$150,000,000, which the present Adminstration has offered for Cuba, we cannot yet include this in our summary. The following table, however, shows the territorial increase of the United States since 1783, as given in the compendium

	of the last Courses.	Square mile
	1783. Area of the Union at the peace. 1865. The purpless of Loudsians added about, 1879. The acquisition of Florida added. 1846. Admission of Texas, (Emory's Map, 1844). 1846. Oreson Treaty. 1847. Treaty of Gnadelup Hidalgo. 1853. With Meeilla Valley.	820,680 893,579 66,900 318,006 308,652
1	sary Wood over of the Unlend States	2.961.606

The present area of the Slave States is 851 508 square miles; that of the Free States 612,597 square miles; total area occupied by the States, 1,464,105 square miles; area occupied by the Territories, 1,494,561 square miles, or a little more than half of the entire Union.

REFORM MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND. The new Reform movement which found birth at the London Tavern was but a poor and siekly child, and is already gasping even in its cradle. To nurse it into strength requires abler physicians and more vigorous treatment than have yet played upon its pulse. The gathering at the Tavern was a miserable affair, following on the sonorous soundings which heralded its coming. On the platform were Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Oliveira, two English members, specially ticketed as "prize bones" upon whom the House of Commons usually dine, and who endeavor to acquire on all illegitimate fields a notoriety which they cannot attain upon their proper sphere of action. The other leading British merchants, with one exception, consisted of the most ragged of the Irish Parliamentary squad, whose merchandise would fit in Tom Thumb's valise, and who had no interest in the subject or the spot beyond that playful spirit inherent in their nature of throwing off their coats and throwing up their shillalahs wherever fun and fighting are going on. The exception was Mr. Travers, a tea merchant of considerable opulence and high character. On looking for the British merchants and seeing his name we were forcibly reminded of the anecdote told of Lord Cornwallis, who, being desirous of inspecting the Armagh Militia, of whose reputation he had heard much, one gallant Irishman appeared when he called it out on parade, and saluting him, exclaimed with the gay audacity of his country: "Here we are, "your honor." Not one of the leading mercantile or banking houses sent a representativenot even the house of Dillon, which has ever led in the city the forlorn hope of progress. Not one of its representatives attended, which certainly would not have been the case had the movement embodied the feeling of any considerable portion of the city. This movement has no grasp of the popular heart, and must speedily What does this administrative reform mean

As wrapped in the thunder of The London Times it means the right man in the right place, or the two great Ls of that journal-Layard and Lowe -in the fattest offices. But this is forgetting that measures, not men, are needed to rouse and rally the masses. The people saw both Mr. Layard and Mr. Lowe in office before, and the world was little wiser or better in consequence.

The Times will, we have little doubt, succeed We shall see them there again, and the water will be told the millenium has at last come But Layard and Lowe are not immortal. Wie they go that way, which even journalists me some day travel, we shall see once more other Aberdeens and Raglans at the accustomed desk We shall have Lord Noodle and Sir Noleken Nothing and such other little men of great too with their natural result—a new Crimea. sybil who would stir the heart of England need present another book.

What again means administrative referain the bleat of this last London meeting, fainly echoed at Norwich? It means a few patriols poor in purse, of the semi-literary, semi-poor litical class, in the place of a few aristocrate indigent in intellect, who monopolize the cost things that belong to office. This little ory of pass through the huge popular ear unheeded. All the great prospects of progress which have hitherto achieved triumph in England, as Eum cipation, Reform, and Free trade, have hala distinct form and substance. The people ... derstood the metto on their standard and my clearly the end for which they fought. But, matter of men such as this can never rouse &. English people. In the Peace and Republican party, for they are synonymous, lies the length which will lift England from her lethary. Their hour is not yet come, but it cannot be be distant. The present movement means nothing and can any moment be satisfied by the pursuaing of one or two of the tallest poppies. The strongest evidence of the impotence of dis movement is given in the contempt which Lord

Palmerston poch-pochs it. Few men observe with keener vision the stem of popular feeling or can better descry the difference between ! frothy bubbles of agitation and the calm, still current of genuine feeling. Few were ever more prepared to do that which suited the interest of the hour without regard to principle. He still is in command of the situation. The known partiality of the French Emperor, whe at present has England in his power, and the ba lief in his thorough English pluck still maistain his popularity with the masses, whose mtional pride and whose imagination, excited by the bravery and suffering of the soldiers, tre just now heart and soul wrapped up in the wir. This feeling has shown itself by unmistakable signs. At the great gathering at Guildhall and at the Mansion House dinners, where the merchants of London were assembled, at even meeting of the people, Lord Palmerston was marked out for special enthusiasm. But some thing more was needed. Popularity is pleasant but a Parliamentary majority, as the world is England goes, is a necessity. He had the Whip of course, but a large contingent of Tories was necessary. This he has obtained. He has takes every recent occasion to puff the Peers and the Peers have acknowledged the flattery by an as expectedly large majority on the motion of Lord Ellenborough, which was equivalent to a declaration of want of confidence in the Ministry. An analysis of the division in the House Lords shows a sufficient adhesion to Palmer ston's party of Peers hitherto of the Derbyis army, whose sons and nephews will follows similar course in the Commons to insure him majority there, possibly even a large one . Layard's motion, which is substantially to the same purport as Ellenborough's. And an abit swell he may safely ride through the present session.

It is only when deep disaster comes, as the de struction of the army or the inability to find men to feed it, or at the close of the war, when the pleasure is past and 'pay commences, that Esgland will sit soberly down to cast up her as counts with the aristocracy. The remembrane of humiliating disgrace or the presence of o pressive taxation will then lend strength to the argument of Bright and a sting to the sarcasm Roebuck. At present no measure can strib down the evils complained of which does as strike down the House of Lords, and this does not appear to be included in the present pregramme of reform. A mere change from clique in Belgrave-square to a elique in th small streets around it is of no account and will never command a nation's struggle.

THE CATTLE MARKET .- There were about 500 more bullocks at the Washington Drove Yards vesterday than the average since the firs of January. This clearly indicates that we are not to starve if we can pay the price, which notwithstanding it is about one cent a poun below last week, and two cents below some pre vious weeks is still beyond the reach of a grea many hard working people in this city. The prices which cattle sold for yesterday, were equal to an average of 12c. a pound for all the meat. There were 2,205 head in the yards which would average 74 cwt. each. This would make one million, six hundred and fifty-thre thousand, seven hundred pounds of beef, for ou supply this week, for which the butchers wil have to pay the drovers \$198,450. The con sumers will pay the retailers about the same amount, as the butcher must get as much for the quarters as he pays for the live bullock, to make a living profit. He would then clear th hides and tallow, which are worth upon an average, about thrice as many deliars as the bullock weighs hundreds. That is, upon cattle in good killing condition that weigh? cwt. they get about \$15 for hides and tallow This enables some of the large butchers to sel ment by the carcass at less per pound than they paid for it by estimation of weight when alire. The retailer, however, who buys of the large killer, must have his profit, and therefore when beef averages twelve cents in the cattle-yards it will average the same by the time it reaches the consumer. It is not then to be wondered at that we have to pay 16@20 cents for rib-roasts 19 irloin steaks. It is a pleasant reflection to commers that prices are receding rather than vancing, and that the vast prairies of the We cannot be wholly exhausted of their great ster of human food upon which we are now so pendent for a supply in this City.

E. L. Snow Social Union No. 11 held a public a ing on Tuesday evening, the 29th inst., at Priend Hall, No. 129 Sixteenth-st. The hall was filled to e flowing and the proceedings were conducted in ited manner—Mr. Gordon presiding. After troductory remarks on the principles of the d Mr. Weston, Sen., Col. E. L. Snow took the and in an elequent and forcible address revie position of the movement and the duty of th perance community at the present crisis. Brouwer and lady, Mesars, Scott, Anderson and enlivened the proceedings with some excellent si